



HE'S 105 AND STILL FIGHTING—Greek and British captives say the old man at right is a 105-year-old Greek militiaman, shown talking to a Greek officer somewhere in the Hellenic battle area. —A. P. Wirephoto.

Hitler Seen Forced To Risk Midwinter Invasion Attempt

Each Day of Delay Perils Nazi Cause Because It Cuts Armament Lead

By KIRKE L. SIMPSON.
Late March or April would seem by all military logic the correct time for Germany to make her promised grand smash at England. Yet London, by Prime Minister Churchill's say-so, doubts that Hitler will or can wait that long to let loose his attempted knockout punch. Unfavorable developments from the Nazi-Fascist viewpoint on many fronts are urging him to risk a midwinter onslaught. Time is marching against the axis.

Check off these 1941 developments since Hitler's thundering New Year forecast of victory this year:

Nazi-French relations are under increasingly heavy strain. Berlin does not deny that. A Hitler-Petain break is denied, but only continuing Berlin-Vichy diplomatic contacts in German-held Paris are cited to support the denial. A sweeping new Petain cabinet shake-up emphasizes the Franco-Nazi "co-operation" impasse.

Italy's Plight Admitted.
Since Hitler spoke, Italy's serious plight has been officially admitted by Rome action. Italian defeats at Greek and British hands have forced Il Duce to ask help of his axis mate. German planes needed against England have been sent into Italy. Italian planes have been called home from the western front. All this emphasizes unmistakably the fact that Italy in the two months since she marched against Greece has become a German military liability, not an asset.

In Albania winter has closed down with sub-zero force on the northern Greek-Italian flank; but to the south the Greeks are still inching forward. Fall of Italy's Tepeleni-Klisura defense bastion and Valona may come despite weather conditions or belated Nazi air intervention.

Across the Mediterranean the British counteroffensive into Italian Libya surged on. The British, after a siege of Bardia, began a penetration of the deep defenses of the Italian stronghold, taking perhaps 8,000 prisoners in the initial phase of that action, they said. Eastward, there have been flickers of British air activity to suggest an offensive in East Africa soon.

New Possibilities in West.
In the west, repeated bombing of neutral Ireland, attributed by Dublin to German planes, is creating new possibilities of Britain obtaining air and sea bases on Ireland's west coast. On the other hand, British sources suggest that Germany is trying to force Eire into the war on England's side in the hope that a Nazi expedition can seize Irish bases as jumping off spots for invasion of Britain.

And across the Atlantic President Roosevelt is making ready to implement to Congress his promise of American win-the-war aid to Britain.

England's own war industries, despite Nazi bombing, are reported reaching new delivery peaks. The increased flow of manpower and materials from all British commonwealth sources to the battle fronts has been proven abundantly in Egypt and Libya.

Against all that, Germany claims greatly increased power by land, air and sea for a final smash at England. By every rule of reason, every day of delay due to weather or any other cause is dangerous. It sees the armament gap between Germany and England closed by that much. It may drive Hitler to the desperate risks of a midwinter invasion attempt against England.

Turks Plan to Extend Compulsory Service

By the Associated Press.
ANKARA, Turkey, Jan. 4.—The government introduced a bill in the Turkish National Assembly today extending by one year compulsory military service for all men now under arms.

The number affected was not disclosed, but it is known to be large.

Motorists in several Western States, beset by heavy winter snows, clear their driveways with old bed-springs hitched to their cars.

Time Nazis Invade Britain Linked to Congress' Action

Determination to Assist Britain Promptly Seen Forcing Reich to Move

By PRESTON GROVER.
Associated Press Foreign Correspondent.
BERLIN, Jan. 4.—Observers in Berlin, awaiting President Roosevelt's message to Congress Monday, saw the possibility today that the strength of Congress' determination to aid England may be a powerful factor in setting when the Germans will attempt a landing attack on England.

Should it become apparent that Congress may act very fast in opening American wealth and supplies, some observers here predict that Germany correspondingly would make a great effort to strike England to her knees before American help could come.

Already, informed sources have declared that "no matter what help comes from America, it will be too late." And already Germany is displaying a disposition to insure affairs at her back by putting props under Italy's war machine.

Movements to Aid Italy.
Units of the German Air Force have landed in Italy. From the Balkans come reports of ever-increasing troop movements in that direction. What their plans or their numbers may be is a closely guarded secret, so far as official Germany is concerned. But from Balkan sources come forecasts that at least part of the force are intended to strike Greece in her far-stretched flank and end her embarrassing success against the Italians in Albania.

Similarly, it is speculated, the German military commanders would never leave a flank unprotected from any possible Russian activity no matter how friendly diplomatic relations between Germany and the Soviet might be.

In any event it can be taken for granted that only a small fraction of the total German forces has been moved into the Balkans. Action against Greece would require at the outside only a score of Germany's well-equipped divisions. At the time of the west front campaign it was generally accepted that Germany had 240 trained divisions under arms. Since that time there apparently has been no reduction in the number of new men drawn into service as their numbers come up.

Storms Decrease in March.
Repeatedly it is asserted by semi-official and authorized sources that the place where the war will be decided is England. That statement was repeated today by the well-informed commentary service Dienst aus Deutschland.

How soon that attack will come is, of course, a military secret. A 20-year study of English Channel records discloses that during November, December, January and February storms occur at the rate of 15 per month, an average of one every second day on this wind-swept stretch of salt water which the Germans would be compelled to cross in order to put large forces on English shores. However, in March the number of storms drops abruptly to half a dozen. In April through August only two or three storms occur monthly.

Industrial Capacity in Picture.
The British have repeatedly reported concentrations of flat boats along the French, Belgian and Dutch shores. These would have tough going carrying troops, guns and tanks over a stormy Channel and might be expected to meet the greatest success only if quiet waters were available for the period of days required to put a real striking force across the Channel.

Both Congress and America's industrial capacity come into this picture.

Neutral observers are interested as to whether Congress will move fast enough to throw the real weight of American help behind England before the arrival of what might conceivably be the best time for a German attack. The extent of German interest can only be inferred by the fact that much attention is paid to the speeches of those members of Congress who are demanding that the United States move slowly.

The Nation's entire electoral college has met in a body only once—seven years ago. In other election years they have met in their respective State capitals.

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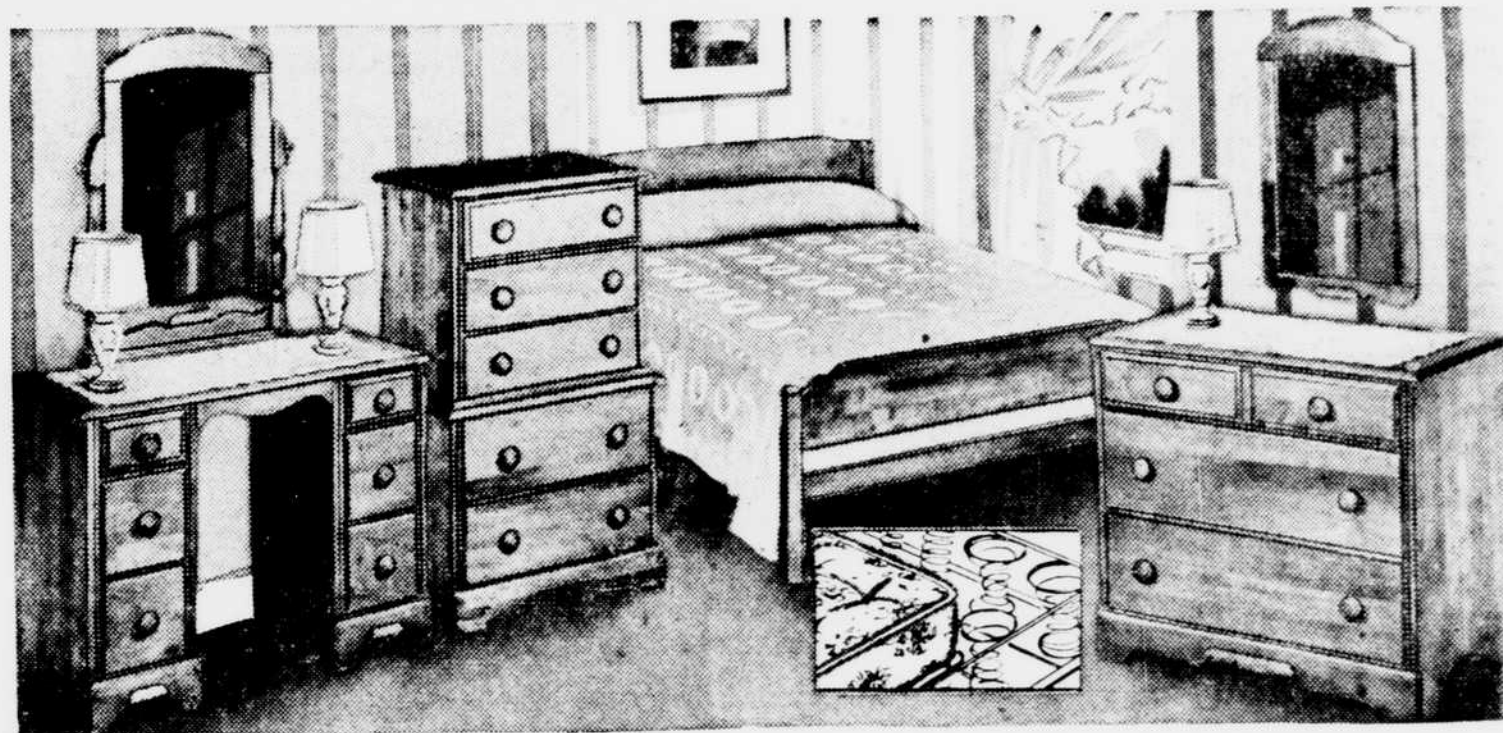
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